

From: [suryan207](#)
To: CEO@GLWATER.org
Subject: Public comment for June 24, 2020 GLWA Board Meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:32:55 PM

June 21,2020
Good afternoon,

My name is SusanRyan. I am a City of Detroit resident. I was hired by DWSD in 1997. I am currently a GLWA employee. I'm very proud of the work we do at the wastewater treatment facility on West Jefferson but I am unhappy with how my coworkers were treated on June 5,2020.

I'm writing today to protest the search of my coworkers' cars and urge this board to explicitly ban random searches of employees' cars.

As far as I can tell there is very little, if any, oversight or public disclosure requirements for GLWA security.

GLWA security carry glocks, tasers and handcuffs.

There's a chain of command of sergeants and lieutenants.

GLWA security and integrity training includes combat shooting.

On June 5, workers at the wastewater plant on W Jefferson were searched by our armed GLWA security at the turnstile.

Employees were stopped by armed security, for a second time, on their way out of our parking structure, and instructed to pop their trunks and submit to a vehicle search.

The parking structure is open to the street but fenced from the worksite. Employees use a turnstile to enter the parking structure from work.

I've gone through the written policies of GLWA and can't find any written policy authorizing a practice of random employee vehicle searches.

When I asked, the answer from security staff was that the authority to do random searches of employees' cars is derived from past practice and the posted "subject to search" signs.

What limits this? I was told that, on June 5th, it was a random search and I've been told that a top manager sent an email requesting the search. Is it a random search if someone directs it for a reason?

Do managers have to give a reason? Can a manager use security to retaliate against employees or attempt to control us?

Get this, GLWA security told me that random searches of vehicles is a long standing practice. I was stunned, I've worked here since '97. My black coworkers were already aware. Is this policy targeted to black employees?

Why is the policy unwritten? Are there other unwritten policies that GLWA uses regularly? Are these the rules for black employees, specifically?

Searching employees cars without reasonable suspicion is an outrageous violation of privacy.

A justification was made that it was to prevent scrap theft during the weeklong cleanup. The parking structure entrance on W Jefferson isn't the route to get scrap out of the plant.

There was no legitimate reason.

As a majority black workforce, we aren't new to this type of problem.

We are living witnesses to the cost of racist over policing to black people's physical and mental well being. We have seen the impact among our friends and in our families. And as thousands march in the street, worldwide, GLWA will have to examine its own practices.

We want courtesy and respect.

My coworkers were coming off a twelve and a half hour shift. It was 730 in the morning.

Not only is racist harassment of employees wrong, it has consequences to employee health and is a violation of our basic right to privacy.

We have been placed on these long twelve hour shifts, with all the required precautions, coming to work during a pandemic. All the words of gratitude sound hollow. When we are treated this way, it tells us how you really view us, the essential employees.

If you want to recognize and thank essential workers, create emergency sick benefits for every employee that has to be off work due to self or family illness from covid 19.

If you want to thank essential workers hold security accountable and require written policies and transparency. Ban random searches of employee cars.

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